



Briefing from the Superintendent

Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve was established by Congress on February 24, 1992 as part of the National Park System – to preserve, protect, and tell the story of its rich contributions to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. The National Park Service and Government of the United States of the Virgin Islands jointly manage the 1,015-acre park. The area blends sea and land and holds some of the largest remaining mangrove forests in the Virgin Islands, as well as coral reefs and a submarine canyon. Since the park was created in 1992, the National Park Service and the territorial government have worked in partnership to protect the resources. The Salt River Bay National Park Commission approved a Land Protection Plan in 1994, which was signed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the Director of the National Park Service in 1995. This plan set the priorities for the purchase of lands within the boundary of the park. The legislation that created the park requires that it be managed according to the National Park Service standards.

Current Park Status:

- The National Park Service (NPS) has assigned the Superintendent of Christiansted NHS/ Buck Island Reef NM to administer Salt River Bay NHP & EP.
 - The NPS is currently working with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to purchase a private home on the estate Salt River side of the park. This house will be used as a Visitor Center/Ranger Contact Station. We anticipate the closing date by December of 2003.
 - Since 1998 to present, the NPS has spent 4.5 million dollars on land acquisition at the park.
 - We are working to remove derelict vessels from the mangrove system. There are approximately 12 derelict vessels dating back to 1989. These vessels pose a hazard to the ecological preserve, and are also unsightly. We have applied for funding through Coastal America wetland restoration grant program to tackle this project.
 - The NPS only has jurisdiction on property that it owns within the boundary of the park.
 - In 2002, with the approval of the President of the United States of America, the United States Congress expanded the park from 912 acres to 1,015 acres.
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For further information on issues and activities at Christiansted NHS contact:

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